

REMARKS

Claims 18-28, and 41-59 are in the application.

Claims 22-28 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions, and will be rejoined with the application if claim 21 is deemed allowable.

Claims 18, 20-22, 41, 43, 46-49, 53, and 59 are amended.

Claims 1-17 and 29-40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 18-21 and 41-45 are subject to examination.

Claims 18, 20, 21, 22, 41, and 43, are amended to define the “hash” as a “self-authenticating cryptographic hash” or “cryptographic self-authentication hash”.

Claims 46-49, 53 and 59 are amended to provide a “self-authenticating cryptographically processed set of identifications”. Claim 47 further limits this element to comprise a cryptographic hash.

Claims 18, 21, 22, 43, and 46 are amended to define that the hash, or set of identifications, is generated based on a reading or ascertainment of the readable or ascertainable pattern.

Claims 18-21 and 43-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Li (US 5,549,953) in view of Waters (US 5,572,589).

Applicants have previously sought to distinguish Li based on the fact that a hash or cipher is not taught thereby. The Examiner, in the outstanding Office Action, invited applicants to “disclose the method steps of generating a hash function in specific terms [as elements of the claims] ... if it is presented in a manner that do[es] not require further search and consideration.” A brief telephone consultation with the Examiner by the undersigned on June 15, 2006, clarified that the Examiner would be willing to permit an amendment of the claims after final rejection to include details of the hash drawn directly from the specification (without introduction of new matter). Applicants herein adopt the Examiner’s suggestion and have made every effort to comply. The examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that, for any reason, the proposed amendment fails to satisfy the requirements for patentability or unacceptably raises new issues for consideration.

The hash employed according to the present invention are disclosed on page 26, line 23; page 32, line 19, as well as in numerous of the references incorporated into the specification.

The fact that the hash is cryptographic was previously made an issue in the case in at least claims 46 and 47. The self-authentication nature of the hash or set of identifications was previously made an issue in the case in claims 21 and 41. Applicants have reviewed the specification, and note that the generation of the self-authentication code is disclosed at least on page 53, lines 13-21, page 54, lines 2-8, page 56, lines 2-8, and page 57, lines 21-26.

As previously argued, Li does not disclose any cryptographic technique, and thus not a self-authenticating cryptographic technique. Waters provides authenticating based on a deterministic pattern (i.e., one precisely defined by the manufacturing method), which is distinct from a non-deterministic pattern (e.g., resulting from uncontrolled manufacturing variations and thus random).

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Hoffberg", written in a cursive, flowing style.

By
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